GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:997
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
FOREST COVER
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States in the country particularly Bihar and Maharashtra have the requisite forest cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of efforts made by the Government to remove obstacles in the way of achieving the targets regarding requisite forest cover?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages to have a minimum of one third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the Hills and mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system. As per the latest assessment of Forest Survey of India, the State of Bihar and Maharashtra have 5.13 % and 15.17 % respectively of the total geographical area under forest cover.

(b) Details are given in the Annexure as per State of Forest Report 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Various measures taken to increase forest in the country are:

i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by States/UTs from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

iii) Guidelines to all States/UTs have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

v) A protected areas net-work has been established.

vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 997 FOR 25-11-2002 REGAF `FOREST COVER`

Percentage of forest cover in States/Union Territories as per State of Forest Report, 1999

States/UTs	Percentage
Andhra Pradesh	16.08
Arunachal Pradesh	82.21
Assam	30.2
Bihar	5.13
Chhatisgarh	41.93
Delhi	5.93

Goa	33.79
Gujarat	6.61
Haryana	2.18
Himachal Pradesh	23.5
Jammu & Kashmir	9.2
Jharkhand	27.15
Karnataka	16.93
Kerala	26.56
Madhya Pradesh	19.73
Maharashtra	15.17
Manipur	77.86
Meghalaya	69.7
Mizoram	86.99
Nagaland	85.43
Orissa	30.21
Punjab	2.8
Rajasthan	4.05
Sikkim	43.94
Tamil Nadu	13.13
Tripura	54.79
Uttaranchal	43.49
Uttar Pradesh	11.55
West Bengal	9.42
A&N Islands	92.21
Chandigarh	6.14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	41.44
Daman & Diu @	2.68
Lakshdweep @	0
Pondicherry @	0

Total	19.39